



## Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 241**

January Session, 2005

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1172

*Senate, April 11, 2005*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. DEFRONZO of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

### **AN ACT CONCERNING STATE EMPLOYEES AT 25 SIGOURNEY STREET IN HARTFORD.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1      Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Any state employee  
2      working in the building at 25 Sigourney Street in Hartford who is  
3      diagnosed by a physician employed by the Occupational and  
4      Environmental Health Center at The University of Connecticut Health  
5      Center or any of the Occupational Health Clinics in the state as having  
6      an adverse health condition, and such physician determines, in  
7      writing, that such condition is likely caused or exacerbated by  
8      environmental factors present in said building shall, upon submission  
9      of such written determination to the Commissioner of Administrative  
10     Services, be relocated to another building, within reasonable proximity  
11     to 25 Sigourney Street, not later than ten business days after such  
12     submission. No employee who requests or receives a relocation under  
13     this section shall: (1) Be terminated because of such request or

14 relocation, (2) be required to take an early retirement, or (3) sustain any  
 15 prejudice to the employee's employment status, position or benefits.  
 16 No employee relocated from 25 Sigourney Street under this subsection  
 17 shall be required to return to said building unless a physician  
 18 employed by the Occupational and Environmental Health Center at  
 19 The University of Connecticut Health Center or any of the  
 20 Occupational Health Clinics in the state determines, in writing, that the  
 21 employee may return to said building without adverse effects to the  
 22 employee's health. The Commissioner of Administrative Services shall  
 23 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of  
 24 the general statutes, to implement the provisions of this subsection.

25 (b) Any state employee covered by this section shall be protected by  
 26 the provisions of section 31-379 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**LAB**      *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

GAE

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

### **OFA Fiscal Note**

#### **State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 06 \$	FY 07 \$
Pub. Works, Dept.	GF - Cost	Potential Significant	Potential Significant
Department of Revenue Services	GF - Revenue Impact	See Below	See Below
Department of Administrative Services	GF - Cost	Potential	Potential
Social Services, Dept.	GF - See Below	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

#### **Explanation**

The bill requires the state to move any state employee working at 25 Sigourney Street to a new work location if the employee is diagnosed by a physician who determines that the employee's adverse health condition is likely caused or exacerbated by environmental factors in the building.

The Department of Revenue Services (DRS) currently has 8 employees who are unable to work in the Sigourney Street building and have either been moved to a different location or are working from home. DRS has indicated that there are potentially an additional 170 employees who could qualify for relocation under the terms of this bill. The Department of Public Works (DPW) has indicated that it can accommodate relocating 12 additional Sigourney Street employees into other state-owned space. To move each employee may cost up to \$1,800; this includes the physical move and hook-ups for phone, electrical and computer lines. DPW indicates that any number of employees above 12 would have to be accommodated in leased or state-owned space that may require significant renovations. The cost to move Sigourney Street employees to leased space is anticipated to be

significant<sup>1</sup> and will depend on the number of employees that require relocation.

There could be a short-term impact on state revenue collection by DRS if the number of employees requesting a transfer to an off-site location disrupts departmental operations.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) also occupies a portion of 25 Sigourney Street. It is not currently known how many, if any, DSS employees are reported as unable to work at the site. Depending on the occupation of any such employee, they could be relocated to various DSS regional offices without incurring the need for additional leased space. However, if a significant number of employees need to be relocated, additional space may have to be leased, at a potentially significant cost to the state.

Under the bill, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) is responsible for facilitating employee transfers to another state building within reasonable proximity to Sigourney Street. This will create a workload increase for DAS. Depending on the number of employees seeking transfer, DAS may need additional staff resources to handle these new responsibilities.

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<sup>1</sup> OFA defines significant costs as those in excess of \$100,000.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

sSB 1172

***AN ACT CONCERNING STATE EMPLOYEES AT 25 SIGOURNEY STREET IN HARTFORD*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the state to move any state employee working in the building at 25 Sigourney Street in Hartford to a new work location if he is diagnosed by a physician who determines, in writing, that the employee's adverse health condition is likely caused or exacerbated by environmental factors present in the building. The physician must be employed by the UConn Health Center's Occupational and Environmental Health Center or any occupational health clinic in the state. Upon receiving the written determination, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) must, within 10 business days, relocate the employee to another building within reasonable proximity to 25 Sigourney Street.

The bill protects an employee receiving or requesting a relocation from (1) termination due to the request or relocation; (2) forced early retirement; or (3) prejudice to his status, position, or benefits. An employee relocated under the bill cannot be required to return to the building unless a physician employed by the UConn Health Center's Occupational and Environmental Health Center or any occupational health clinic in the state determines, in writing, that he may return without any adverse health effects.

Under the bill, if an employee believes he has been harmed due to his request for relocation or relocation, he may complain to the labor commissioner under the provisions of the state Occupational Safety and Health Act. The commissioner must hold a hearing. If the commissioner finds for the employee, he can order reinstatement, back pay, and reasonable attorney's fees. Either party can appeal the commissioner's decision in Superior Court.

DAS must adopt implementing regulations. The 25 Sigourney Street building houses the offices for the departments of Revenue Services and Social Services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 9      Nay 4

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14      Nay 6